



St Alban & St
Stephen website

NEWS BULLETIN - CATHOLIC PARISHES OF ST ALBANS 30 AUGUST 2026 - TWENTY SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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St Bartholomew's
website

Fr Michael writes... Welcome back after the summer break. This weekend sees the first edition of the joint parishes newsletter. I hope it will help parishioners see and access what is going on across both of the Catholic Parishes of St Albans. When submitting items for the newsletter please keep them brief and please submit them by Wednesday midday to the office of the parish to which you belong. It will take us a little while to get into the new routine but if you have any feedback to offer please email me (michaeloboy@rcdow.org.uk).

St Albans Deanery The Diocese of Westminster takes in London north of the Thames and the County of Hertfordshire, and consists of approximately 200 parishes. These parishes are divided up into geographically based groups called Deaneries. Both St Alban & St Stephen and St Bartholomew's are part of the St Albans Deanery which is made up of fourteen local parishes. Each Deanery has a Dean, a priest whose primary responsibility is to support the clergy and mission of the priests and parishes in that Deanery. Following a consultative vote among the clergy of the St Albans Deanery Archbishop Richard has appointed Fr Michael as the next Dean of St Albans in succession to Canon Anthony Dwyer, Parish Priest of Harpenden.

Season of Creation 1 September to 4 October The World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation takes place on 1 September. It was established by Pope Francis and it initiates the Season of Creation. The aim of the day and season is to encourage us to pray for our common home. This season's theme is 'Living Water'. Reflecting on the forthcoming season Pope Leo XIV centred on these words from Isaiah "They shall beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks" (Is 2:4). In the statement from the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development we are told that the Holy Father's message highlights the connection between armed conflict and environmental degradation. We are called to immerse ourselves in the water, actively safeguarding and working for the renewal of creation so that environmental healing and human well-being may flourish together. The first of two prayer and reflection sheets on this year's theme will be available this weekend and a second will follow during September. As we enter the Season of Creation, let us pray that all peoples have enough water for their needs and let us thank God for our access to clean water.

Fire Marshals wanted We are asking for more volunteer Fire Marshals to ensure we have the required number at each mass. Volunteer Fire Marshals will only be required to do something in the unlikely event of a fire. There are instructions and there will be training. Please seriously consider volunteering. Contact your parish office for details.

PARISH CONTACT DETAILS

St Alban & St Stephen Church
14 Beaconsfield Rd, St Albans AL1 3RB
Email: stalbands@rcdow.org.uk
Website: www.albanstephen.org
[YouTube/SsAlbanandStephenCatholicChurch](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCsAlbanandStephenCatholicChurch)
Tel: 01727 853585
Office Hours Monday-Friday 9am-1pm
Deacons: Rev. Brendan Day & Rev. Michael Larmer
Parish Administrator: Mrs Angela Gray
Safeguarding Lead: Mrs Mary Harber
stalbandssg3@safeguardrcdow.org.uk/07976 277059
Catechetical Coordinator: Mrs Joan Egenes

St Bartholomew's Church
49 Vesta Avenue, St Albans AL1 2PE
Email: stalbandssouth@rcdow.org.uk
Website: www.stalbandssouth.org.uk
www.facebook.com/StBartsRCChurch
Tel: 01727 850066
Office Hours Mon, Tues, Wed & Friday 9am-12.45pm
Deacon: Rev Anthony Curran
Parish Administrator: Mrs Dawn Pace
Safeguarding Lead: Mr Chris Blandford
stalbandssg3@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

Please support your parish by scanning the appropriate parish QR code below and donating today. Our QR codes connect to our contactless giving machines which can be used to make either a general or more specific donation.



ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN



ST BARTHOLOMEW

SACRAMENTAL & LITURGICAL

Sacramental Preparation Registration If you have a child in year 3 or above who wishes to celebrate their First Holy Communion, or a child in year 9 or above who wishes to be confirmed, please follow [this link](#) for St Alban & St Stephen parish or contact the parish office for the link to the St Bartholomew's application forms. The closing date for registration is 9 September and late registration will not be possible.

For more information about other sacramental preparation in your parish, or for enquiries about becoming a Catholic, please see the relevant parish website or contact your parish office.

Family Resources Please click [here](#) for this week's 'Liturgy of the Word' for Children leaflet from the Diocese of Westminster. The [Wednesday Word](#) is another excellent resource that can be used by families to reflect on the issues and messages present in Sunday Liturgy each week.

Mass Intentions Mass intentions can be booked by phoning or visiting the relevant parish office during office hours. Outside these times, please email the office to request a mass intention. Donations can be made by posting an envelope through the relevant presbytery door or by making a payment via bank transfer. Please note that masses can be booked up to one year in advance and dates tend to get booked up a few months in advance. Intentions may have to be moved with little notice to accommodate funerals. The suggested diocesan donation, which contributes to the stipends of the priests of our parishes, is £10 per mass.

Prayers for the Sick If you would like to include someone in the prayers for the sick, please contact the relevant parish office. Permission from the person being prayed for, or their next of kin, is needed. Names will normally be included for eight weeks, unless the request is renewed.

ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN PARISH

Masses for children, families and young people Please join us at Little Lights (under sevens) and Children's Liturgy (seven and above) during 10am Mass on Sundays (term time only). If you can help with Little Lights please get in touch via the parish office. There is no Children's Liturgy on the last Sunday of each month. Instead, children are invited to sit on the carpet at the front of the church and the Mass itself is geared towards their participation. There is then a short social for everyone after mass. Our Parish Youth Masses take place at 6pm on Sunday evenings, once a month.

St Alban and St Stephen Parish Coffee and Tea After Mass Refreshments are available in the Parish Centre after 10am Sunday Mass during school term time, after 12 noon Mass on the first Sunday of the month and after the 5pm Saturday evening Mass. Coffee and tea are also

available after the 10am Mass each Monday. All are welcome so please do come along.

St Albans Food Bank We currently have a food collection point at all masses, including the St John Fisher Mass centre, on the first Sunday of each month. The principal demand remains for long life items (milk and fruit juice), tinned items (fruit, veg, meat, fish and puddings), cooking sauces, coffee, teabags, cereals and jam. More details can be found [here](#).

Migrants' toiletries and clothing and flour collections Many thanks for your continued generosity to local migrants. There are currently new, female, residents in a local hotel and the staff have confirmed that ongoing donations of toiletries would be very welcome. In particular we have been asked for shampoo, toothbrushes for adults and children, and toothpaste, sanitary towels (not tampons), soap and shower gel. We also collect decent quality, clean men's clothing. Migrants who are training as baristas are also seeking donations of flour - any kind. The collection box is checked regularly and housed in the storage cupboard to the left of the porch as you leave.

Faith and Family Group, we meet in the parish hall on the first Tuesday of the month (not August) at 10.45am. Activities for under 5s. All welcome.

Toddlers' Playgroup Monday 10.30am-midday For pre-school age children and their carers, term time only. Join us in the hall for toys, books, games, singing, drinks & snacks. Contact David Markham on 07543 400650.

Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation group We meet on the third Thursday of each month in the Parish Centre, starting at 7.30pm. All welcome. See [here](#) for future events.

Mass in Polish Mass in Polish takes place at St Alban and St Stephen at 4pm on the second and fourth Sundays of each month.

CWL meeting 2pm Thursday 3 September All welcome

The Parish Friends Knit & Natter Group Meeting in the Parish Centre on 8 September 2.15-3.45pm. All are welcome. Contact Helen Bassill 07860 830340.

BINGO Our next Bingo evening will be on Friday 11 September at 8pm in the Parish Hall. Admission is 50p and includes refreshments. Everyone is welcome.

Fair-trade The parish fair-trade stall will be open after all Masses at Church over the weekend of 12/13 September and after Mass at Marshalswick Mass Centre on 20 September. Products from many desperately poor parts of the world will be available.

Parish Friends Tea Party The next Parish Friends Tea Party is on Sunday 20 September in the Parish Hall from 3-5pm. All senior parishioners are invited. We are delighted that the amazing band Diamond Years have agreed to entertain us again so we can be certain of a fantastic afternoon. If you can offer a lift to the party or

make a cake, please contact Helen Bassill on 07860 830340. Please include the ingredients of any cakes made and try to get them to the hall before the event.

Volunteers for Visiting Care Homes - Date for your Diary Thursday 24 September, 6.30 for 7pm in the parish centre. Training, tips and allocation of your choice of home to visit.

Lourdes Pilgrimage by Jumbulance One of our parishioners Ruth Argent has volunteered to support those travelling to Lourdes by Jumbulance in October. Any donations to help fund this accessible pilgrimage and support the Jumbulance Trust in its work would be greatly appreciated. Click [this link](#) in order to donate.

ST BARTHOLOMEW'S PARISH

Help wanted. We have hired a skip to clear the rubbish outside at the back of the hall. This is impacting on the fire exit. Any help will be greatly appreciated. Saturday 5 September from 10am for a couple of hours. Just turn up on the day.

Huge thanks from the Food Pantry Your generosity over the summer has kept our families and Open Pantry friends going through the summer when their usual support is paused. We were also blessed to receive a significant financial donation from a parishioner plus a large food donation from our parishioners at Buongiorno Italia.

Revamping our 'Christmas for Someone Else' (CSE) We have had meetings with our fellow St Albans & St Stephen parishioners who have shared some of their effective approaches to this annual challenge. We will be sharing our St Bart's ideas for improving and extending our offering from this Christmas season after masses early autumn. We will need a few extra volunteers for the autumn admin, shopping, IT, ccommunications, networking. Limited time commitment - for an informal chat with no commitment please contact Jackie Tominey 07702 958585 stalbanssouthpcc@rcdow.org.uk

Toiletries for asylum seekers Toiletries such as shampoo, shower gel, toothpaste, toothbrushes and deodorants are urgently needed at a local asylum hotel. Please put any donations in the box at the back of church.

Remembrance Candle Remember a loved one by sponsoring a 7 day candle in the Remembrance Chapel and inviting people to pray for the repose of their soul please contact the Parish Office. The cost is £25 for the week and includes a picture with wording of your own choice, a candle and flowers.

Soup & Bread lunches No soup on bank holiday Monday. Back 7 September.

Circle of Friends Invitation The next Circle of Friends tea will be in St Barts Parish Hall on 30 September 2-4pm. Please let Maureen Kelly know if you are attending or need of a lift: 07860 283743 or stars2004@btinternet.com

LOCAL & WIDER COMMUNITY

Mass in Cantonese Once a month at 2pm at Our Lady of Lourdes in Sawston, Cambridge, CB22 3HJ. All welcome. For more details please see the porch flyer or email cantonmassesea@gmail.com.

St Albans URC Memory Café Sociable afternoon for those with dementia and accompanied by their live-in carers - Chiswell Green URC Hall, Watford Road, Chiswell Green on the first Thursday of the month - 1.30-3.30pm. Email [here](#) for information.

Community Café St Julian's church, in Cottonmill, is holding a Community Café every Thursday from 10.30 - 12.00, with coffee/tea and cake £2.

South St Albans Churches Season of Creation Saturday 5 September 10am - 4pm Celebration of the Season of Creation with a Reflection and Action Day for Wildlife at St Albans URC, Watford Road Chiswell Green, AL2 3HG. Includes a Wildlife gardening talk in the morning and a 'retreat' time in afternoon. For more details and to book tickets [visit here](#). If you are unable to come in the morning please feel free to pop in at any time between 1 and 4pm with no need to book tickets. There will be several prayer stations and the afternoon will culminate in an outdoor 'Forest Church' Style Service. See the poster and sign up sheet in the church.

People's Emergency Briefing Film for the Season of Creation (1 Sept to 4 October) we are encouraged to view the film The People's Emergency Briefing, Our Changing Climate: the Future we choose. Bishop John Arnold, Bishop's Conference Spokesperson for the Environment, says 'Our Faith compels us to speak up on matters of justice and morality and by joining this initiative we can play our part in calling for the government to take the action that is urgently needed'. Locally it can be seen at: St Luke's Church Cell Barnes Lane on 7 September at 7.30pm and at St Saviour's Church, 25, Sandpit Lane, AL1 4DF at 7.30pm on 22 Sept. Tickets are going fast so it is best to [book here](#) though the film is free to view.

Please contact your MP to oppose assisted suicide The Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill is back in the House of Commons and seeks to legalise assisted suicide. It will have its Second Reading and vote on Friday, 11 September. Please write to your MP to make your voice heard and oppose the Bill. The charity Right to Life UK has a simple online mechanism to do this. It takes little more than a few minutes to enter your postcode, make sure the suggested text suits your viewpoint and submit your message to ask your MP to stop this flawed Bill progressing through parliament. For more information and resources, see [here](#).

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF 30TH AUGUST 2026

Saturday 29 August	VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY	
5pm Mass	Thomas, Margaret & Austin McGoldrick (RIP)	St Alban & St Stephen
6.30pm Mass	Frank O'Connor (Ann)	St Bartholomew
Sunday 30 August	TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	
8am Mass	Anne Smet (RIP)	St Alban & St Stephen
8.30am Mass	<i>No mass in August</i>	St John Fisher School
9.30am Mass	People of the Parish	St Bartholomew
11am Mass	Louis, Tereza, Anthony, Jose & Peidade Fernandes (RIP)	St Alban & St Stephen
6pm Mass	Josephine Mary Scoley (First anniversary)	St Alban & St Stephen
Monday 31 August	Feria	
10am Mass	Margaret McHugh (RIP)	St Alban & St Stephen
12 Noon Mass	NO MASS	St Bartholomew
Tuesday 1 September	Feria	
10am Mass	Lacalle family (Ints)	St Alban & St Stephen
Wednesday 2 September	Feria	
10am Mass	Ray Lawson & the Nagle family (Ann)	St Bartholomew
10.30am	<i>Exposition and Confessions</i>	St Bartholomew
7pm Mass	Geraldine Collins (RIP)	St Alban & St Stephen
Thursday 3 September	ST GREGORY THE GREAT	
10am Mass	Mary Thomasina Fitzpatrick (Ann)	St Alban & St Stephen
Friday 4 September	Feria	
12 Noon Mass	Priest's intention	St Albans Cathedral
7pm Mass	Sue Myerscough (RIP)	St Alban & St Stephen
Saturday 5 September	Blessed Virgin Mary on a Saturday	
10am	<i>Exposition and Confessions</i>	St Alban & St Stephen
10.45am	<i>Benediction</i>	St Alban & St Stephen
Saturday 5 September	VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY	
5pm Mass	Larry Hughes (Ann)	St Alban & St Stephen
6pm Mass	Romeo Canencia (RIP)	St Bartholomew
Sunday 6 September	TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	
8am Mass	John Taylor (RIP)	St Alban & St Stephen
8.30am Mass	Christine Dawson (RIP)	St John Fisher School
9.30am Mass	Josephine Veronica Howe (RIP)	St Bartholomew
10am Mass	Martin and Bridget Cloherty (Ann)	
12 Noon Mass	Peter Ayers (RIP)	St Alban & St Stephen
6pm Mass	John Quinlan (RIP)	St Alban & St Stephen

Details of the readings for this week's Masses are available online [here](#) or on our [website](#).

PLEASE PRAY

For all the sick including

The names of those we have been asked to pray for are not included in the web version of the parish bulletin for reasons of data protection.

For all those who have died recently including Tim Coakley, John Duggan, Michael Fitzpatrick, Paolo Leto, David Linton, Kathleen McGoochan, Lawrence Janes, Patrick James Moran and Michael Norris.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Martin and Bridget Cloherty, Lia & Ruando D'Sa, Mary Thomasina Fitzpatrick, Larry Hughes, David Keiley, Ray Lawson & the Nagle family, Denise Murphy, Frank O'Connor, Fr Richard Scriven MSC and Josephine Mary Scoley.

May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace